

## Homewatch Newsletter – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012

Dear coordinators,

This is the final email that I will be sending to you all as I am finishing this Friday to go on maternity leave. My colleague (Vicky Moulton) will be taking over the scheme and so if you have any questions then please continue to email the Eastern Partnerships mailbox and she will get back to you. I have enjoyed my time of running the scheme and I am sure that Vicky will be able to answer any questions that you may have.

During the last couple of weeks there have been a few burglaries in mainly the Alsager/Holmes Chapel/Congleton area. The trends that these seem to be taking are by the offenders making their way to the rear of the properties and forcing their way through a rear window or door.

To try and deter these from occurring then it is just as important to secure the perimeter of your house as well as your house itself. Even by placing a padlock on a side gate may deter someone from making their way down there. Also having outside security lights also act as a great deterrent as they attract attention when they are triggered.

A few other tips that may help are:

- Having strong fencing and gates around your house.
- Repair any weak spokes in fences/gates/hedges.
- Burglars don't like gravel!! It is noisy for them to walk on!!
- Fixing trellising at the top of fences/walls make them more difficult to climb over.
- DO NOT USE barbed or razor wire, or broken glass – you could be held legally responsible for any injuries caused. You can get safer alternatives that are designed to not injure.

One way to look at your house is to look at it in the sense that you have forgotten your keys and how you would get in. If you can see a fairly easy way to get in then it is the same for a burglar.

We have also had a few theft from motor vehicles happen across this part of the Eastern Division. A few of these have been where valuable items have been left in sight and so they have unfortunately become an easy target.

We are also having a few theft from vehicles in the more rural areas of the division – these thefts tend to be theft of diesel from HGV's that have been parked up for the night. When travelling around please can I ask you to be vigilant when you are out and about travelling through Cheshire and if you see anything then please report it!

Crime levels have fallen across the county and so Cheshire continues to be a safer place to live.

- **Burglary** in particular has seen a **significant drop** which is good news for homeowners and businesses. There were 794 fewer victims (**17 percent drop**) according to statistics published yesterday, Thursday 19th January 2011, which reflect the 12 months up to September 2011.
- There has **been 5283 fewer victims of crime** overall compared to the previous year (**eight percent drop**).
- **Violence** against the person is **down 14 percent** with 1828 fewer victims and despite a four percent rise across England and Wales, Cheshire has seen a **14 percent drop in robbery offences**. There were also fewer victims of **car crime (down 14 percent)**, **criminal damage (down 11 percent)** and **sexual offences (down nine percent)**.

Commenting on the statistics, Assistant Chief Constable Ruth Purdie says,

*"I hope the communities of Cheshire are pleased to see that crime continues to fall across the county but it is important that they know that we will **never become complacent** and it is vital that people actually feel safe and confident in the police.*

*Working with our partner agencies we will **continue to ensure that victims are given the help and support they need** and we strive towards our ultimate aim of reducing re-offending. Although it remains an encouraging picture for Cheshire, there is always work to be done and we welcome feedback from the public in order to understand what is important to them and how we can improve.*

*There are still **more challenging times ahead** for the police service and we are committed to delivering the best possible service for the communities of Cheshire while identifying areas where we can work more efficiently and effectively."*

*- ACC Ruth Purdie, Cheshire Constabulary*

The number of people who feel the police are dealing with local concerns has remained consistent at **56 percent and 58 percent** of people also feel the police and local councils **are dealing with issues**, which is an **increase of 2 percent**.

Drug offences are the only area where the constabulary has seen an increase (four percent) but this is a reflection of the proactive activity across the Force targeting those involved in drug use and supply. The public are also more confident and in providing information to the police so we can take action against the criminals ruining their communities.

Many Thanks

Kelly Walkley, Cheshire Police